

Union, Contractors Repair Home Wiring

Low Income Homes In North Portland

This past Saturday, in low-income homes throughout North Portland and Washington County, unsafe electrical wiring was being replaced and repaired. Electrical lighting was being installed. Outlets and switches were being checked and repaired. Heating needs for elderly and disabled Oregonians were being met. And all at no cost to the home owners.

The electrical contractors of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), Oregon-Columbia Chapter and the electricians of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 48 were providing these services as part of the volunteer efforts of Christmas in April.

Christmas in April is a nationwide effort dedicated to providing home repair and rehabilitation to low-income, elderly and disabled home owners to enable them to live in warmth, safety, independence and dignity. The program provides not only needed electrical work, but a complete range of repair work from roofing to painting to yard clean up.

Locally, there are two Christmas in April Chapters, one in North Portland and a new Chapter in Washington County. This year, 40 homes in North Portland and 17 in Washington County were selected on the basis of their need to receive the donated materials and the labor of more than 700 volunteers, including many members of the building trade unions like IBEW member and volunteer coordinator for the Christmas in April electricians, noted that the most common electrical work the electricians did was to re-wire unsafe switches and sockets, install new lighting both inside the home and outside, and install electrical fans in order to make home owners more comfortable during the upcoming hot summer months.

Electrical Construction Company (EC), an Oregon-Columbia NECA member, provided four trucks which



Chuck Burns, volunteer coordinator for the Christmas in April electricians and a retired IBEW member, replaces unsafe wiring while homeowner Harriet Clausen inspects his work.

moved from home to home distribution electrical supplies used by the volunteer Local 48 members.

"Oh, this is just wonderful," said Harriet Clausen, one of the home owners who benefitted from the program. "It's an answer to my prayers."

"This is a completely volunteer effort on the part of our electricians," said Ed Barnes, IBEW Local 48 Business Manager. "We're very proud of the journeymen and apprentices who chose

to participate in making our North Portland and Washington County neighborhoods more livable."

In addition to skilled trades people from 8 different labor organizations, local businesses and individual volunteers helped with the repairs, including cleaning up, raking yards, and generally making each home a better place to live. Any additional work needed on the homes will be completed next Saturday, April 30th.

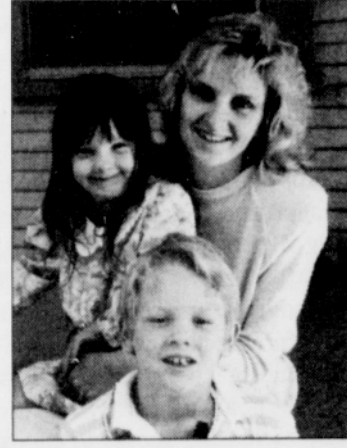
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INTEREST

Home Improvement Loans

City of Portland home improvement loans are available at 0%, and 3% interest, depending on your income. If you are a homeowner, you may qualify to borrow money from the Portland Development Commission (PDC) to make your home and neighborhood an even better place to live. At these rates, you can't afford not to call and find out about your eligibility.

Your chances of qualifying for one of these loans are very good if you own your home, need city-approved repairs or improvements, and meet our income guidelines.



If you have questions, or would like to find out if you qualify for a loan, call PDC's Eastside Neighborhood Housing Preservation Office at 823-3400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. City funds are limited for this program, so call today to begin enjoying the

benefits of your home repairs.

PDC is the City's agency for urban renewal, housing and economic development. The home repair loan program is funded through a federal Community Development Block Grant administered by the Bureau of Community Development.



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Portland Housing Center's Upcoming Classes

The following is a list of the Portland Housing Center's upcoming classes for Home Owners:

Buying A House On Contract: Thursday, May 5th 7:30-9:30 pm; PCC SE Center (2850 SE 82nd Ave.); Room #C-2

The instructors, Gary DeSalvo of Oregon Title Co. and Judy Carnahan of Birdgetown Realty, will help potential buyers understand the complicated issues that involve home-buying, and steps to take when beginning such a process. Signing contracts that are legal, and safe-guard the buyer's investment will be stressed.

Home Insurance Basics: Thursday, May 12th 7:30-9:30 pm; PCC Cascade Campus (705 N. Killingsworth); Cascade Hall Auditorium Carmen Thompson, with State Farm Insurance, will discuss insurance factors to consider when purchasing a home or as a home owner.

The Portland Housing Center regularly sponsors classes for Home Owners and Buyers. These classes are listed in the PCC Catalog under the Community Education section. Classes are free, and registration is taken at the door. Call Portland Housing Center for additional class information 282-7744.

The Portland Housing Center is a private, non-profit program that provides information, education, and counseling for home buyers and owners. The Portland Housing Center is supported by a partnership of public and private funds.

HERE IN PORTLAND

FREE INSULATION WITH ONE PHONE CALL.

Weatherstripping, insulation and other important home energy-saving measures are available — absolutely free — to qualifying Pacific Power customers here in Portland who heat their home with electricity. It's like money in the bank.

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